

EXPANDER DEVICE AND METHOD FOR ISOLATING BUS SEGMENTS IN I/O SUBSYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An expander device and method for isolating bus segments from one another in
an I/O subsystem. The expander device is arranged to couple the bus segments for
communication in the I/O subsystem. The expander device includes a first I/O interface
circuit, a second I/O interface circuit, and an expander controller. The first I/O interface
10 circuit is configured to be coupled to a first bus segment and is adapted to interface input
and output communication signals with the first bus segment. The second I/O interface
circuit is configured to be coupled to a second bus segment and is adapted to interface the
input and output communication signals with the second bus segment. The expander
controller is coupled to communicate the input and output communication signals
15 between the first and second I/O interface circuits. The expander controller is further
arranged to control communication between the bus segments and includes a segment
controller adapted to generate a first signal. The segment controller provides the first
signal to the first and second I/O interface circuits to disable output of the
communication signals from the first and second I/O interface circuits to the first and
20 second bus segments.